(iii) Government has given 20% interest subvention to farmers on their loans of Kharif & Rabi 2005-06.

(iv) It has been decided that Government will provide interest subvention to the Banks for providing agricultural loans at an interest rate of 7% p.a. upto loan of Rs. 3 lakhs.

(v) Banks have been asked to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible borrowers.

(c) The normal repayment period for crop loans has been decided keeping in mind the crop production cycle which provides for repayment after the harvesting of crops

(d) As per existing guidelines the banks convert the short term crop loans of farmers affected by natural calamities into medium term loans. Further, RBI/NABARD/IBA have issued guidelines to all banks for providing debt relief to farmers in distress/arrears by restructuring/ rescheduling the dues of farmers. The affected farmers who have insured their crops are provided compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Extension of air travel facility on LTC to Government employees

4027. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are favourably considering to extend the air travel facility on the LTC to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether Government are also favourably considering the rail/bus travel facility to the retired Central Government employees, after 8 years of the date of retirement of an individual; and

(c) if so, by when a favourable decision is expected to be taken in favour of the retired Government employees and what terms and conditions are expected therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Central Government employees have been permitted to avail LTC by air subject to laid down conditions, *vide* Order dated 24.04.2006.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration.